



From the desk of

Maine State Legislature

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis>

Senate President Beth Edmonds

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2006

Dear Harpswell Neighbors:

Each year as I prepare for the Legislative session, I reflect on you, my constituents, and what a great honor and awesome responsibility I have as your State Senator. I carry with me the many cares, hopes and dreams you shared with me as I went door-to-door in 2004 or have contacted me about since that time. Little did I know when I first ran for the Senate that I would now occupy the seat of Senate President - only the second woman in Maine's history to have that title. I am ever mindful that I would not have had this opportunity if it were not for the confidence you placed in me, however, when you went to the voting booths. Thank you so much!

2006 is the Second Regular Session of Maine's 122nd Legislature. We are working hard to address the approximately 500 bills that were introduced this year. Our statutory adjournment date is April 19th.

As you know, we are facing astronomical gas and home heating fuel prices – causing many of our elderly and less fortunate citizens much fear and apprehension. To alleviate some of this, the legislature made this its first item of business when we convened in January and appropriated \$5 million for fuel and energy assistance for Maine people. We must put our people first!

Maine is such a special place to live and work. That is why addressing the viability of our economy, the environment, academic excellence for our children, and increasing the education and skill of our workers are so important. All levels of government must work together with the citizens so that we make good decisions and help our towns to prosper and continue to be special places.

As you gather today to organize the governance of your community, think about how we can work together on issues that are most important to you and your family. I invite you to come to Augusta while we are in session to hear firsthand how the legislature works. Committee hearings are also open to the public. You can check schedules for either of these by going to the Legislature's website at <http://janus.state.me.us/legis> or by calling the Legislative Information Office at 287-1692. It is your State House and your government. I invite you to come and learn more about it and how you can make a difference; and, as always, if I can be of assistance, please contact me at the State House (287-1500), by message on the Senate toll free line (1-800-423-690) or by e-mail (SenBeth.Edmonds@legislature.maine.gov). Best wishes for a healthy and fruitful year!

Sincerely,

Beth Edmonds